

I. Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

A. Legal Philosophy and Purpose

North Carolina's program of social services consists of an array of core and supportive services that may be provided alone or in various combinations best suited to addressing the particular levels of need of adults, children and families. The social services program is designed to address the following broad goals and priorities:

- Ensure that children and adults are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation;
- Enable citizens to maintain or achieve maximum self-sufficiency and personal independence through employment if possible;
- Strengthen family life in order to nurture children so that they may become productive, healthy and responsible adults;
- Assist disabled and dependent adults, while ensuring they live in the most independent setting feasible with the least possible intrusion from public agencies; and
- Ensure that every family and individual has sufficient economic resources to obtain the basic necessities of life.

County departments of social services form a statewide network of agencies with primary responsibility for the delivery of services necessary to assist individuals and families in meeting these goals.

Services may be provided under a number of specific Federal, State, county or combined funding sources. Some services are defined exclusively for provision with certain funding sources. Other services are uniformly defined and may be provided with more than one funding source. A list of current services and applicable funding sources can be located in the Services Information System (SIS) Manual. <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/rim-01/man/index.htm>

Efforts have been made to create uniform policies governing the general requirements for the provision of services. However, there are additional specific requirements applicable to certain funding sources that must be met in order that reimbursement may be received from these sources.

This manual outlines *general* requirements for service delivery. Procedures addressed in this manual are not all inclusive. *Specific* requirements imposed by Federal regulations or State law on the provision of services under certain funding sources are addressed in specific service manuals. In order to assure that all service, funding and reporting requirements are met, this manual should be used in concert with the SIS Manual

<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/rim-01/man/>; the appropriate chapters of the Family Services Manual <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/manuals.aspx?dc=dss>; Division of Aging and Adult Services Manual; the Fiscal Manual <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/ooc/fsc/man/>; Child Care Subsidy Services Manual, <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dcd/ccs/man/>; administrative letters <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/admltrs/admltrs.htm>; and Medicaid Bulletins <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/DMA/bulletin.htm>.

B. Services Impacted

The Requirements for the Provision of Services by County Departments of Social Services replaces Volume VI, Chapter II (Conditions for the Provision of Social Services) of the Family Services Manual, and as such applies to the delivery of all social services provided by county departments of social services.